

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An illuminating fire hose comprising:
a fire hose having a first end and a second end, said fire hose including an interior wall and an exterior wall remote therefrom; and
a sleeve secured over the exterior surface of said fire hose, said sleeve carrying at least one light emitting element adapted for selectively emanating light.
2. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element includes an electroluminescent material.
3. The hose as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one light emitting element is an electroluminescent cable.
4. The hose as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a power source coupled with said at least one light emitting element.
5. The hose claimed in claim 1, wherein said sleeve comprises a flexible material.
6. The hose claimed in claim 5, wherein said sleeve is a fabric sleeve.
7. The hose claimed in claim 1, wherein said sleeve has first and second edges extending between first and second ends thereof, said first and second edges being connectable to one another for securing said sleeve over the exterior surface of said hose.
8. The hose as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first and second edges of said hose overlap one another when said sleeve is secured over the exterior surface of said hose.
9. The hose claimed in claim 7, wherein said first and second edges include hook and loop fastening material.

10. The hose claimed in claim 1, further comprising a clear material attached to said sleeve adapted to hold the at least one light emitting element.

11. The hose as claimed in claim 10, wherein said clear material is selected from a group consisting of a polymer material and a reinforced flexible material.

12. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element extends between the first and second ends of said hose.

13. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element is visible outside said hose.

14. The hose as claimed in claim 10, further comprising an epoxy adhesive for attaching said clear material to said sleeve.

15. The hose as claimed in claim 14, wherein said adhesive is substantially transparent.

16. The hose as claimed in claim 10, further comprising stitching for attaching said clear material to said sleeve.

17. The hose as claimed in claim 1, further comprising one or more securing fibers wrapped around said at least one light emitting element for securing said at least one light emitting element to said sleeve.

18. The hose as claimed in claim 17, wherein said one or more securing fibers include substantially transparent monofilaments.

19. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element is wrapped around said hose so as to provide illumination completely around said hose.

20. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element has a length that is greater than the distance between the first and second ends of said hose.

21. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element is adapted for transmitting light from a first end to a second end of said light emitting element.

22. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element includes one or more optical fibers.

23. The hose as claimed in claim 22, wherein said optical fibers comprise a fiber optic cable.

24. The hose as claimed in claim 23, wherein an end of said at least one fiber optic cable is adapted for being coupled with a light source so that light generated by said light source may be transmitted through said fiber optic cable.

25. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element has chemiluminescent properties.

26. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element comprises a series of light emitting diodes.

27. The hose as claimed in claim 26, wherein said series of light emitting diodes may be selectively activated for indicating a direction to the first end of said fire hose.

28. The hose as claimed in claim 27, wherein said series of light emitting diodes are selected from a group consisting of white light emitting diodes, red light emitting diodes, green light emitting diodes, yellow light emitting diodes, blue light emitting diodes and orange light emitting diodes.

29. The hose as claimed in claim 22, wherein said light emitting diodes may be selectively activated for transmitting a message along said hose.

30. The hose as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one light emitting element has one or more directional arrows

thereon, said light emitting element including a cable having an opaque sheathing providing an outline for said one or more directional arrows.

31. The hose as claimed in claim 30, wherein said directional arrows are spaced along a length of said cable.

32. The hose as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a color filter in optical communication with said at least one light emitting element for changing the color of the light emanating therefrom.

33. An illuminating hose comprising:

a hose having a first end and a second end, said hose including an interior wall and an exterior wall; and

a sleeve secured over the exterior surface of said hose, said sleeve carrying at least one light emitting element adapted to selectively emanate light from said hose.

34. The hose as claimed in claim 33, wherein said light emitting element is an electroluminescent cable.

35. The hose as claimed in claim 34, further comprising an electric power source coupled with said electroluminescent cable.

36. The illuminating hose as claimed in claim 33, wherein said at least one light emitting element is visible between the first and second ends of said hose.

37. The illuminating hose as claimed in claim 36, wherein said at least one light emitting element is continuously visible between the first and second ends of said hose.

38. The illuminating hose as claimed in claim 33, wherein said at least one light emitting element includes one or more optical fibers.

39. The illuminating hose as claimed in claim 33, wherein said at least one light emitting element has chemiluminescent properties.

40. A combination comprising:

a fire hose having a first end and a second end, an interior wall and an exterior wall remote from said interior wall;

a material sleeve secured over the exterior wall of said first hose, said sleeve carrying an electroluminescent material that is adapted to be activated for generating light; and

an electric power source coupled with said electroluminescent material, said electric power source being selectively operable for activating said electroluminescent material.